



Project Newsletter

Volume 6: January 2008

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Project Status

Work continues to move forward to begin construction soon. Although there have not been any significant changes, progress continues.

For those new to the project, the Record of Decision (ROD) for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was filed in August 2005 by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to select Alternative G. Project information, as well as a copy of the ROD and other project documents, is available at:

<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/fernan/>

The near-final plans set are being used for permit applications and will be developed into a contract package as soon as the right-of-way negotiations and permits are finalized.

Right-of-Way and Permits

A number of issues arose during acquisition of needed right-of-way, but the process is nearing completion.

Permit applications have been sent for the water and erosion related impacts of the project. A Public Notice was sent on December 20, 2007 for our permit application with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. It was for approximately 3.56 acres of fill in lake, stream, and wetland areas.

To clarify, the area is where fill is being removed and replaced in waters of the U.S. as well as new fill being placed, so permanent new fill impacts are actually much less. For example, though 1.09 acres of fill is being introduced to the lake, there is actually much less than an acre of lakebed where new material is being placed; the remaining area is where existing fill is being removed and replaced.



The project team evaluates how to install a retaining wall and avoid impacts to trees at a recent project review.

Proposed Traffic Impacts

When construction begins, there will be construction impacts to traffic on Fernan Lake Road. As described in the Environmental Impact Statement, blasting will require road closures along the lake for up to 4 hours. These closures will likely be frequent during the first several months of construction and become less frequent during the second year of construction.

Advance notice of closures will be given via local media, information signs, and the project website. Additionally, we will develop a closure schedule that best accommodates resident and recreational needs, and provides for emergency vehicle and school bus access. At the same time, in order to

complete the project in a timely manner, closure windows will be necessary so that construction can be conducted safely and efficiently.



The project team discusses the proximity of water to the road and minimizing impacts at a recent project review.

What's Next?

- Finalize Right of Way and Permits
Now – Early 2008
- Advertise/Award Construction Contract
Early Spring 2008
- Construction
Summer 2008-Spring 2010



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration
Western Federal Lands Highway Division
610 East Fifth Street
Vancouver, WA 98661-3801

Keeping You Informed

Thank you for your continuing support and interest in the Fernan Lake Road safety improvement project. We are not anticipating any further public involvement activities on our part other than providing prior notice to announce traffic impacts associated with construction. Your comments on the project are always welcome and will receive consideration.

Please send your comments:

- by email to:

fernancelake@mail.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov

- by phone or mail to:

Greg Gifford, Project Manager, 360.619.7622,
or Andrew Rasmussen, Compliance Specialist,
360.619.7899, both at FHWA's return address.

Information on the project, including the development history, EIS, and ROD, can be found on the project website at:

<http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/projects/fernancelake/>

